What is claimed is:

1.   A method of communicating message data between a
plurality of subsystems which are distributed across a data
communications network, the method comprising:

        coupling the distributed subsystems together through a
coupling means with a shared memory;

        providing at least one shared queue in the shared
memory;

        providing access to the shared queue from each of the
coupled subsystems; and

        communicating message data between the distributed
subsystems by means of the shared queue.

2.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality
of subsystems is a distributed network of resource managers.

3.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality
of subsystems are all part of a sysplex.

4.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one
application program is connected to a subsystem, and wherein
the subsystem manages the message data for the at least one
application program.

1   5.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling

2   means is a coupling facility with data structures for the at

3   least one shared queue and a database.

1   6.   A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the database

2   stores queue definitions for the at least one shared queue.

1   7.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least

2   one shared queue includes a shared transmission queue.

      8.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each subsystem

      has a long running process to check the at least one shared

      queue for message data for that subsystem.

      9.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subsystems

      also have local non-shared queues.

1   10.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein message data is

2   sent from a first subsystem to a second subsystem by the

3   first subsystem putting a message on a shared queue and the

4   second subsystem getting the message from the shared queue.

1   11.   An apparatus for communicating message data,

2   comprising:

3   a plurality of subsystems distributed across a data

4   communications network;

5   a coupling means with a shared memory the shared memory

6   having at least one shared queue;

7   means associated with each subsystem for accessing the

8   at least one shared queue; and wherein

9   message data is communicated between the distributed

10 subsystems by means of the shared queue.

1   12.   An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the

2   plurality of subsystems is a distributed network of resource

3   managers.

1   13.   An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the

2   plurality of subsystems are all part of a sysplex.

1   14.   An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least

2   one application program is connected to a subsystem, and

3   wherein the subsystem manages the message data for the at

4   least one application program.

1   15.   An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the

2   coupling means is a coupling facility with data structures

3   for the at least one shared queue and a database.

1   16.   An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the

2   database stores the queue definitions for the at least one

3   shared queue.

1   17.   An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at
2   least one shared queue includes a shared transmission queue.

1   18.   An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein each
2   subsystem has a long running process to check the at least
3   one shared queue for message data for that subsystem.

1   19.   An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
2   subsystems also have local non-shared queues.

1   20.   A computer program comprising computer readable program
2   code for performing the steps of:
3   providing at least one shared queue in a shared memory;
4   providing access to the shared queue from each of a
5   plurality of subsystems coupled to the shared memory wherein
6   said subsystems are distributed across a data communications
7   network; and
8   communicating data between the distributed subsystems
9   by means of the shared queue.

1   21.   An apparatus for communicating message data within a
2   distributed data communications network, the apparatus
3   including a resource manager for receiving messages from
4   input message queues and forwarding the messages to
5   destination message queues, the resource manager including:

6   a coupling facility manager component providing

7   connection services for the resource manager to connect to a

8   coupling facility list structure to perform operations on

9   list structure entries including connect;

10   a message retrieval agent for accessing at least one

11 shared queue in shared memory associated with the coupling

12 facility;

13   wherein the message retrieval agent enables the

14 resource manager to access messages directly from the shared

15 queue of a connected coupling facility.